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Mental Ills of JFK Plot Witness Bared

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Perry Raymond Russo, the 25-year-old insurance salesman who testified he heard Lee Harvey Oswald and two other men plotting to assassinate President Kennedy, said Wednesday he underwent psychiatric treatment for two years.

Russo took the stand for the second day in a preliminary hearing to determine if Clay Shaw should be held for trial.

An attorney for Shaw, the retired executive accused by Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison of being one of the assassination conspirators, quizzed Russo intensively about the psychiatric treatment.

Russo, who appeared much calmer than Tuesday when he related details of the alleged conspiracy, said he visited a psychiatrist "when I needed to talk to someone." He said he had not seen a psychiatrist in 1967 but had been under treatment for two years around 1960.

Russo was asked when he first met David W. Ferrie, the former airlines pilot who Russo said conspired with Oswald and Shaw in September, 1963, to kill Kennedy.

"In 1960 or 1961," Russo sadi.

Q—Who introduced you to him?

A—A friend of mine named Al Landry.

"Do you believe in God?" Russo was asked by F. Irving Dymond, one of four lawyers representing the 54-year-old Shaw.

"How do you define God?" responded Russo, 25, an insurance salesman.

DEFINES GOD

Asked for his own definition, Russo said: "God is everything, the entity of the universe, me, you, everything."

Q—You took an oath to tell the whole truth and nothing but the truth, and how do you define truth?

A—I think I would be telling the truth to the best as I knew it under penalty of the law.

Q—Under penalty of God?

A—God is everything. He is you, me, everything. I consider my oath a promise to God, to myself, to everything in this room.

Presiding Judge Bernard J. Bagert cut off the line of questioning by saying: "This is not a catechism class. Let's move on out of this area."

At the start of Wednesday's session, Shaw's attorneys questioned officials from Loyola University and Law School about Russo's student records.

STUDIED LAW

Frank J. Stass, registrar of the school, testified that Russo once attended the New Orleans institution.

Shaw's attorneys Wednesday subpoenaed the tape of an interview with Russo made by WDSU-TV in New Orleans Feb. 24, two days after the death of Ferrie.

In his appearance Tuesday, Russo said he was in Ferrie's apartment in September 1963 and heard Shaw, Oswald and Ferrie planning to assassinate Kennedy and make a getaway.

Police arrested and booked James R. Liscombe, 30, for making threatening telephone calls. Liscombe is a musician in a Bourbon Street night club.

UNDER TREATMENT

Dymond asked Russo if he had ever been under psychiatric treatment.

"Late in 1959 or 1960, Russo replied.

Dymond then asked if Russo had seen a psychiatrist in 1967.

"I've talked to many doctors at LSU (Louisiana State University)," Russo said. He is studying insurance underwriting at the Baton Rouge school.